

workers to be sent to work at Ground Zero immediately after the September 11th terrorist attacks. Mr. Carson has sent me heart-wrenching pictures of the twisted metal that show the depth of the tragedy and the danger of the rescue work. But that danger has not deterred any of the workers who have been involved in the rescue, and now recovery, effort.

Ever since the tragedy occurred, IUOE, and the Hazmat Center, have played a major role in the rescue and recovery effort. In fact, Mr. Carson has been coordinating the Hazmat workers' activities based out of a command post trailer parked on the right field warning track of a baseball field near Stuyvesant High School.

Today, Mr. Carson sent me an article from the New York Daily News. The article describes how Mr. Carson "has been handing out respirators, hardhats and protective vests since the attacks."

The workers' health has come into question as the long weeks pass since the attacks. They have developed a cough that doctors refer to as the "World Trade Center cough." Don Carson and IUOE's Hazmat Center are trying to tackle this. They are working with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the New York City Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a respirator fit test and orientation for all workers assigned to Ground Zero. The workers must have a DOH sticker affixed to the credentials in order to work in the Red Zone.

After the workers take their respirator fit test, they will be given an American flag hard hat.

The News article notes that these workers "battle constant danger, fumes and fatigue, as well as their own emotions. "Our guys have seen things that God never intended," said Bobby Gray, 46, the union's master mechanic. "But they soldier through."

The IUOE workers have "pulled bodies from the rubble, cleared hills of jagged steel and recovered million of dollars in gold bullion trapped under the fallen towers."

The farther down the workers go below ground level, the more dangerous it gets. They must drill 8-inch cables into the concrete retaining wall—the "bathtub wall"—that circles the World Trade Center site to make sure it is anchored to the bedrock.

If the "bathtub wall" would burst, the Hudson River would rush in and flood the site. But the IUOE workers press on, risking this incredible danger as they drill the holes.

The News article follows the IUOE workers' tasks as they operate "twenty five cranes, 75 excavators and countless front-loaders, pay-loaders and machine drills." For example, crane operator Steve Nolan operates a 438-foot crane, navigating a one-and-one-half ton man-basket from inside the rig's cab.

"A crane like this is not to be run by the seat of your pants," Nolan said. "If you have an oops" on a job like this people are dead."

"Even when I'm wrecking a building, it's usually a happy job because we are replacing it with something new," said Steve Nolan. "When I sit in the crane, I ask myself. 'What kind of sick hatred could do this?'"

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVES STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to recognize a great partnership of the public school system and private sector in my congressional district in North Carolina, "Bright Ideas." Bright Ideas is sponsored by North Carolina's 27 electric cooperatives. Each cooperative and their statewide association, the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, make grants directly to classroom teachers. Bright Ideas allows teachers with imagination and creativity to go the extra mile and, of course, students and the educational process are the ultimate beneficiaries.

As a democratic nation, we enjoy and cherish unmatched rights and freedom. We are a land where individuals, regardless of background and circumstances of birth, can aspire to do great things. We need more "Bright Ideas," not only in North Carolina but also throughout the nation. And we must make sure there is no pulling back, no reduction of support for our public schools as a result of the crises we face. It would be yet another tragedy if we somehow lost sight of our priorities and our public schools suffered. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle said 2500 years ago that, "The fate of empires depends on the education of youth." As we work to ensure a secure future for our nation in light of unprecedented assaults on our way of life, it is important to remember this fact.

During these uncertain times we must not lose sight of education as the foundation of our democratic and free society. We invest in our people by investing in our public education system. As we fight to preserve our way of life, public education—that solid rock upon which our society is built—absolutely must remain a top priority. And support must continue to come from both the public and private sectors.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are as committed to the public schools and to North Carolina's classroom teachers as they were in 1994 when they made their first Bright Ideas grant. Since then, the cooperatives have made almost \$2.5 million in Bright Ideas grants to classroom teachers all across North Carolina to encourage creative instruction. This year alone they have budgeted almost \$400,000 for grants. The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and the 27 local cooperatives are providing the funds.

Bright Ideas projects are designed to spark the imagination of students through hands-on projects and to make learning experiences exciting, enjoyable and rewarding. In 2001, hundreds of North Carolina classrooms will become "Bright Ideas Classrooms," and 70,000 students will have unique educational experiences that would not have been possible without this investment from the private sector.

When I am asked, "What can we do to help improve public school education?" I often point to Bright Ideas as an example. This one program says a lot about the impact companies and organizations can have with a modest investment in our public schools and good

teaching. Creative partnerships are desperately needed in most school systems to provide laboratory and telecommunications equipment, extra-classroom experiences, resources for athletic teams and bands who often receive little public funding, and grants for classrooms teachers, such as those North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide through "Bright Ideas."

Bright Ideas is not a one-size-fits-all grant program. It is unique because it begins in the classroom where teachers and students put their heads together and devise their own learning initiatives. Then the teacher asks the cooperatives to fund the project they have devised.

Our President has urged us to not allow our lives to be further disrupted by the September 11 tragedies. I would add that while doing that we should make sure that our priorities remain firm. Former president Lyndon Johnson, who faced tremendous challenges during his administration, said, "At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems—the answer for all the problems of the world—comes to a single word. The word is 'education.'"

Continue to focus on improving public education. One great way to do that is to encourage public-private partnerships such as the Bright Ideas program in North Carolina that our electric cooperatives have initiated and, working closely with teachers, made so effective.

America's future is bright, and one reason is Bright Ideas. I salute North Carolina's electric cooperatives for their continuing commitment to this program that enhances teaching in our public school classrooms, and I commend Bright Ideas.

HONORING COMMANDER VINCENT WILCZYNSKI

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Commander Vincent Wilczynski, an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. A resident of Old Lyme, he is a Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard, an educator, an administrator and civic leader in our community.

Joined by various members of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard, friends, and family, he was honored today by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation who recognized CDR Wilczynski's achievements throughout the years by honoring him with the "2001 Professor of the Year for a Baccalaureate Institution" award presented at the National Press Club. He was chosen from a group of over 400 extremely qualified nominees.

CDR Wilczynski is a 1983 U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduate, and received his masters and doctorate degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Catholic University. He has served in the Department of Engineering for the United States Coast Guard Academy for almost nine years. During this time he has introduced innovative and creative techniques to the classrooms and laboratories. He

was instrumental in establishing the mechanical engineering major at the academy, and earning its accreditation, and has been a mentor to hundreds of cadets—many of whom are now commissioned officers.

CDR Wilczynski has also extended his dedication to teaching beyond the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has been a tireless proponent of community service programs that are helping to motivate elementary and high school students to pursue technical educations. He has also been teaching today's youth in high schools across the country through the FIRST (For Inspiration of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

Mr. Speaker, CDR Wilczynski has reached out and touched the lives of many individuals throughout the nation through his innovative teaching. He has given us 18 years of service as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, and continues to serve the nation faithfully.

Commander Wilczynski has truly distinguished himself and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as the 2001 Professor of the Year. And he is the first member of the faculty of any of our service academies to be so honored in the 20-year history of this award.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House of Representatives to join me in heartfelt appreciation for the service this dedicated man has provided to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE SECURITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a sense of the Congress measure related to the very real and present concern for the security of our nuclear facilities in the new post September 11 era.

Throughout my public life I have represented in the Pennsylvania legislature and here in Congress the many neighborhoods and communities surrounding the Three Mile Island nuclear facility. I remember well the infamous incident at TMI in 1979. I served as a state senator at the time and, minutes after the warning came that an incident had occurred, I was at the site trying to gather information and allay public concerns. In the many years that have followed, I have worked consistently to ensure that security at TMI was

beyond reproach, and I think with great effect. Nuclear power plant security has and will always be of paramount importance to me.

It has been twenty-two years since the TMI incident. I believe the security of TMI today remains as tight as ever. However, in light of the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon, and murdered over 5,000 innocent civilians, we must be even more vigilant. A recent credible threat to TMI provoked concerns on the part of many in my District about the ability of TMI and other nuclear facilities to repulse a possible terrorist attack. Happily, the threat to TMI turned out to be noncredible. But the concerns exist. I believe the Nuclear Regulatory Commission handled the incident appropriately. They assure me that future terrorist threats can be dealt with to ensure that a nuclear incident does not occur as a result. Yet, we cannot know with absolute certainty that we are forever safe from such a threat. I firmly believe that a thorough, federal study of the security measures in place now and, those needed in the future, at all of nation's nuclear facilities should be conducted immediately.

There are over 103 nuclear facilities located at 64 sites in 31 different States. Each has a different security plan registered with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, yet the overall responsibility for the security of all such facilities remains a federal issue. My legislation would reconfirm the national responsibility for nuclear plant security, and calls upon the President to order an interagency study of security at nuclear facilities be conducted immediately by the NRC, the Defense Department, the Department of Transportation, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency.

I am pleased with the steps Governor Ridge of the Office of Homeland Defense continues to take to prepare the country for future acts of terrorism. One of those steps was to recently issue, in conjunction with the NRC, an alert to Governors to take necessary steps to bolster security at our Nation's nuclear power plants. Thirty-one States are home to over a hundred nuclear facilities. Twenty-two Governors, after receiving the Homeland Defense security alert, ordered State troopers and local officers to temporarily augment the private security at the facilities in their States. Nine Governors, including Governor Schweiker of Pennsylvania, decided to call up National Guard units to bolster security at their nuclear facilities. However, the use of National Guard forces has raised many questions. Why some States and not others? How large a force will be necessary? How long will they be there? Are they properly trained for such a mission?

Are their efforts coordinated with law enforcement and private security? And, who will fund these units?

My legislation calls upon President Bush to make the use of military forces at nuclear plants a primary focus of the federal interagency study to be commissioned. The Department of Defense and Nuclear Regulatory Commission must move forward with other relevant agencies towards developing standards to ensure that units of the National Guard, Coast Guard, Army and Air Force are used appropriately, are adequately trained, and highly coordinated with law enforcement and private security forces. Moreover, my resolution calls upon the President to recognize the need for federal funding for National Guard units called upon to perform security duties at nuclear power plants nationally. The National Guard has a unique dual role. They serve under State authority or federal authority, depending on their mission. President Bush has recognizing the national importance of protecting our national transportation system by funding National Guard units stationed at airports and train stations across the country. This resolution calls upon the President to similarly recognize the national importance of nuclear plant security by funding those units sent to nuclear power plants.

Additionally, my resolution calls upon the President to direct the FDA, NRC and FEMA to take all necessary steps to begin stockpiling supplies of potassium iodide in communities within the Emergency Planning Zones of each of the 64 nuclear power sites across the country. Potassium iodine can effectively counteract some of the more serious debilitating effects of radiation poisoning. A potential accident at a nuclear facility can result in leakage of radioactive iodine. Studies show that use of potassium iodide tablets can prevent the onset of thyroid cancer, a by-product of radioactive iodine exposure. Stockpiling of potassium iodide tablets simply makes sense. It is another important way we can do everything within reason to make sure our communities are free from the fear of insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bush Administration for the actions taken to make America more secure. More will be done. My sense of the Congress resolution helps point the Government in the direction it must move over the next months. I thank Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. PITTS and Mr. PLATTS of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for their active support in joining me in this measure. And, I ask that all Members of Congress and the Senate support our measure.